CommuniCAT VOL. 1, 2022



## ONE10 CONTINUES TO SHOW RESILIENCE, COMPASSION AND EXCELLENCE



PAT DEVINE Superintendent, Waconia Public Schools, ISD ONE10

As we conclude two years of the most challenging and remarkable work we have done at ONE10, it is amazing to reflect back and see all that was accomplished.

I am so proud of how well our ONE10 students, staff, parents and community responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we redesigned our delivery of excellence to ensure our staff and students remained safe. We realize that ISD 110 was not always in line with some thoughts and ideas of how things should be done, yet, we have never lost sight of our priority to take care of kids. Our surveys and our work have reflected that most students and families are satisfied with the work we have accomplished during the pandemic and how well we continue to deliver excellence. These past two years will leave lasting impressions on all of us and I am so proud of those who looked for the positive and showed resilience through challenging times.

The lessons learned and the incredible ability to adapt have made us all stronger and I am so thankful for all those who demonstrated such unbelievable flexibility. ONE10 staff has always been and remains totally committed to helping students explore their passions and create their success. That's a simple statement "Explore Your Passion, Create Your Success", yet so impactful. As we stay grounded with our values, our mission and our vision at ONE10, we will be stronger together and we look forward to all that we can accomplish moving forward. My passion for creating the best environment possible for student learning has never been stronger. It is essential that we continue to be an exceptional place for students to learn and for staff to work. As we look towards the spring, it appears that we are getting back to some sense of normalcy.

> Thank you to all who have been patient and supportive over the last couple of years, it's your spirit of unity that makes ONE10 a special place. I am dedicated to making my remaining months at ONE10 better than ever. Thank you!!

## WeAreONE10!

## TEACHING AND LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

What is a snapshot of the process by which the district reviews curriculum year-to-year?

Teachers and members of the Teaching and Learning Team collaborate to regularly review and revise curriculum so that each subject area reflects current best practices and meets expected Minnesota Department of Education standards.

The team reviews each curriculum area every nine to 10 years, with mid-cycle monitoring for progress and gaps every 4 to 5 years.

How does the Teaching and Learning Advisory Council work and fit into the curriculum review process? The purpose of the Teaching and Learning Advisory Council (TLAC) is to formally review and advise on K-12 curriculum, prior to presentation to the Board of Education.

The majority of TLAC members are parents and community members. Other reflect the latest research in science and are designed to promote the interpretation of data, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

A key feature of instruction related to the new standards is a concept called phenomena-based learning. This approach encourages students to observe events in the natural and the built world and explore why they might occur.

For example, students may be asked to make observations, such as weather events, animal behaviors, or rides at the playground, and explore scientific explanations. Phenomena-based learning is an approach that moves students from "learning about" to "figuring it out."

Updates in Health Standards: The Minnesota Department of Education has adopted the National Health Education Standards (NHES) to guide districts in curriculum and program development. These standards promote and support health-enhancing behaviors for students in grades K-12. The area of health

education carries three statutory requirements for local instruction: (1) The risks and prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, (2) tobacco and vaping prevention, and (3) one-time CPR and AED instruction. Recent legislation also encourages districts to increase awareness around the area of mental health and violence prevention. All of these topics are introduced and covered at age-appropriate grade levels with a majority of our health curriculum and programming beginning in seventh grade.

start and to be open and responsive with TLAC members while the work is in progress.

This year, the council will also hear updates related to district operations in the areas of Cultural Competence and E-12 Crisis Management Systems. TLAC does not officially create ISD 110's operational plan. That's done by the administration team with input from staff.

### How would someone interested in curriculum development get involved with the TLAC?

Depending on the number of openings on the council each year, building principals may recommend candidates so that all buildings and grade levels are represented. Students are also an important voice, and we ask teachers or student council advisors to make recommendations for our WHS student representatives. Parents who may want to explore being a part of this should speak with their child's principal about their interest.

### Teaching and Learning Team

- Kathy Oliphant, Director of Teaching and Learning
- Sarah Klitzke, Elementary Teaching and Learning Manager
- Tim Koschinska, Secondary Teaching

members include high school students, Board of Education representatives, and members of the Teaching and Learning Team. TLAC meets four or five times per year, with agenda topics determined by areas of curriculum in active review.

### What are some high-level updates for our community regarding our district curriculum?

This year, the council is receiving information and advising on K-12 health, K-6 science, and K-5 word study. The Minnesota Department of Education recently updated standards in health and science, and districts are expected to review and align local curriculum within a reasonable time frame.

**Updates in Science Standards:** Many states, including Minnesota, have adopted new standards based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS **Updates in Word Study:** The area of word study (learning how to decode and read words) is receiving attention because of research regarding how children learn to read and how to best support students with dyslexia. Teachers in grades K–5 are in the process of receiving training and implementing new curriculum to support instruction in phonics, spelling, and handwriting.

As the state recommends changes and new instructional requirements, we aim to seek TLAC member feedback for a pulse on which topics should receive priority. We prefer to gather TLAC feedback at the beginning of the review process, to share with curriculum teams at the and Learning Manage

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# Communi**CAT**



### **BOYS SOCCER: 8-7-2**

All-Conference: Asher Johnson, Sam Kaeding, Wally Wisniewski Honorable Mention: Broyden Stuewe

### GIRLS SOCCER: 11-4-1

All-Conference: Brynley Theis, Jordan Grell, Grace Seim, Katherine Gregoire Honorable Mention: Kendra Borland, Kennedie Dustin





All-Conference: Natalie Feddema, Lily Thurk Honorable Mention: Audrey Swanson, Anna Vogt



All-Conference: Natalie Feddema, Lily Thurk Honorable Mention: Audrey Swanson, Anna Vogt

## DELANEY SEBORA NAMED A NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMI-FINALIST



Waconia High School senior Delaney Sebora has been named a National Merit Scholar semifinalist. Delaney is one of 16,000 semifinalists who represent less than 1% of high school seniors in the United States. The National Merit Scholarship program was founded to encourage the pursuit of academic excellence. The competition begins when high school juniors take a qualifying test such as the Preliminary SAT (PSAT). Delaney is now eligible to move onto the next level of the competition. If she were to be named a National Merit Scholar finalist, She could receive one of a variety of scholarships.

## PERFECTION!

Reprinted from "The Paw Print" student newspaper



Bodhi Perea is an outstanding junior. Not only did he earn a perfect 36 on his ACT, but he also participates in many extracurricular activities such as all three jazz bands, marching band, and boys tennis.

### Q: What's your favorite subject?

A: My favorite subject would probably be physics. Being able to see or do what we're learning about helps me to understand it and also makes it fun.

### Q: Do you have any advice for students in regards to academics?

A: There are so many resources out there to improve in every subject so make sure to use them when you can.

#### Q: What's your favorite memory at WHS?

A: One favorite memory is tough, but if I did have one it'd probably be from either Jensen's Principles of Physics or playing tennis with the team.

## Communi**CAT**



All-District: Max McEnelly, Alex Riley, Sam Koppi, Owen Arnheim, Diego Mendoza. Honorable Mention: Kalvin Larson, Aaron Hayes, Blake Simonson, Anders Rodning



All-Conference Honors: Addy Kaeding, Madeline Lage, Amelia Herold, Mark Rud & Jack Ulrich All-Conference Honorable Mention: Danica Kendrick & Ian Lage. State Championship Qualifier: Addy Kaeding



5th at True Team State Finished 5th at MSHSL

State Championships

Set 7 Varsity Records and 4 Pool Records

Coaches Association Silver Academic Award

## GO WILDCATS!

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## EAGLE BLUFF NEW VENUE FOR LONG-STANDING 6TH GRADE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

For more than 50 years, ISD 110 has a tradition of taking the district's 6th graders to a three-day, overnight outdoor learning center for lessons in nature and team building.

In previous years, students attended Long Lake Conservation Center. With COVID-19 restrictions hampering the certainty of Long Lake's availability, Principal Shane Clausen and the 6th grade teaching staff moved the experience this year to Eagle Bluff Conservation Center, near Lanesboro, Minnesota.

Eagle Bluff offers high ropes courses, climbing walls, archery, outdoor trails, geocaching, night hikes, teambuilding games, and environmental studies.

"Through the many years of attending, I'm always amazed to see the students grow over a short period of time," science teacher Daniel Benham said. "We get to see students in a different environment, working together and problem-solving. For many, it's their first trip without family. This can cause some nervousness and anxiety, but this quickly wears off when students become engaged in activities with others."

Sixth grader Max S. said, "The best parts about Eagle Bluff were the ropes course, the night hikes, and the orange drink." Stella G. said, "I will always remember our group challenges at Eagle Bluff. We had to think outside the box to complete the challenge. I really liked the ropes course and our late-night hike. It was a really fun trip!" Hezekiah B. said he most enjoyed being in the dorm room with his friends, along with the night hike. Ty L. liked the geocaching, the raptors, team games, and the mapping. "I will remember getting lost in the woods during geocaching but learning how to find our way out," Ty said. Waconia Middle School principal Shane Clausen summed it up by stating, "This is such an important trip for the sixth graders. The social connections they make help make the transition to middle school that much better.



a catastrophic event. There

were four tasks that students

could choose

and build a

will transport

people from one place to

design

that

from:

vehicle

## 7TH GRADE STEM ROBOTICS CLASS





A message from Mrs. Rose, a 7th grade math and STEM teacher: "We just finished up our first unit in our STEM Robotics class. Students were tasked to create a mechanical system to help continue life after



another, design and build a mechanism that will rotate a solar collection dish 360 degrees, design and build a mechanism that will transport equipment from one place to another as well as move vertically, and the last one is design and build a mechanism that will give humans access to food, water, and shelter by pumping water, grinding grain, and/or chopping wood." ONE10 is proud to have such engaging curriculum available for students to learn how to work as a team and what it means to be persistent.

## POD(CAST) BROS.

For those who listen to Spotify, if you want something local, check out Pod (cast) Bros. Students in the Hi-Five Productions class at Waconia High School created a podcast. To date, they have recorded a seven podcasts. Each episode lasts about 20 minutes or under. Topics range from food to gratitude, movies and the proper way to park a car (especially in the high school parking lot).



Students who produce the podcast are: Kaden Copelan, Brady Schmieg, Richie Sturm Aidan Lynch, Benny Crowder

## MIDDLE SCHOOLERS WIN CARVER COUNTY LIBRARY'S TEEN SIX-WORD STORY CONTEST

In October 2021, Carver County Library's Six-Word Teen Story contest posed the midpandemic theme, "Where do we go from here?" The contest is based on a legend that someone asked writer Ernest Hemingway to write a sad story in six words.

With creative, thoughtful, and condensed entries, three Waconia Middle Schoolers claimed the top spots for grades 6, 7, and 8. Each student won a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card. Here are their winning words for this second annual contest:

"Life paused, we must start again."

Sixth grade: Josie V., Waconia Middle School

## GO WILDCATS!

**"Reorganizing our society, rebuilding our future."** Seventh grade: Ethan M., Waconia Middle School

### "Anywhere but in your comfort zone."

Eighth grade: Weston B., Waconia Middle School

### **APRIL**

- 1 End of Quarter 3 WMS
- 15 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- **18** No School K-12
- 20 WHS Conferences (evening)
- 25 WHS Conferences (evening)

### MAY

- 7 Prom
- 29 Class of 2022 Graduation
- 30 Memorial Day (No School K-12)

### JUNE

- 2 Last Student Day
- 3 Last Teacher Work Day

### AUGUST

- 22-25 Teacher Workshop
- 29 First Day of School (Gr. 1-12)
- **31** First Day of School (Kindergarten)

### **SEPTEMBER**

5 Labor Day (No School K-12)

### **OCTOBER**

- 7 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- 19 K-5 Conferences (day)/WMS & WHS Flex Day (No School K-12)
- 20 Ed MN State Conference (No School K-12)
- 21 No School K-12

### **NOVEMBER**

- 1 End Quarter 1 WMS
- 11 Teacher In-Service Day (No School K-12)
- 18 End of Trimester 1 K-5/WHS
- 21-23 Teacher Flex Days (No School K-12)
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School K-12)

### DECEMBER

23-30 Winter Break (No School K-12)

For All Academic Calendars and High School Activities, **visit isd110.org** 

**CommuniCAT** is a publication of Independent School District 110, Waconia Public Schools, 512 Industrial Blvd., Waconia, MN 55387. Please direct questions and comments to Paul David, Director of Communications & Community Relations, at pdavid@isd110.org or call (952) 856-4531. This edition of the *CommuniCAT* was produced in color, which is comparable in price to black and white, using recycled paper content and soy-based inks.